

REMARKS

The request for continued examination is being filed in order to afford Applicants the chance to present amended claims for consideration by the Examiner.

To summarize, all of the existing Claims 1-3, 5-12 and 14-28 have been cancelled, and new Claims 29-35 have been added herein. New independent Claims 29 and 32 which incorporate the subject matters of cancelled Claims 1 and 10, respectively, include additional subject matters to be further distinguished from the cited prior arts. No new matter has been added.

The Office Action dated August 10, 2009 has been reviewed, and reconsideration of the application and allowance thereof are requested based on the following remarks.

New independent Claim 29 includes additional steps such as "determining a set of pixel sampling points from the maximum and minimum values," "determining from the test performed whether or not the object covers any pixel sampling point," or "adding or rejecting the object from the list in dependence on the result of the determination." The additional steps are fully supported by the specification.

The additional steps or means are included in new independent Claims 29 and 32 in order to clarify that for each object in the image, a bounding box is derived from the maximum and minimum values of the object in the x and y directions. The sampling points to be used are then determined from the maximum and minimum values of the object in the x and y directions. If the bounding box does not cover any of the sampling points, then the object is culled. An object must cover a sampling point for it to contribute to the image.

Also, a second test for objects is performed where the bounding box does not cover some of the sampling points. Each sampling point is tested against each edge of the object. From this test, it is determined whether or not the object

covers any sampling points. Then, the object can be added or rejected from the object list based on the result of the test.

The additional steps and means further distinguish the present invention from the prior arts cited by the Examiner.

New Claims 30, 31 and 33-35 depend upon what is believed to be allowable Claims 29 or 32, respectively, and as such, are believed allowable therewith.

For the above reasons allowance of the instant application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Encl: None

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